

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:

(a) an image forming unit which forms an electrostatic latent image onto a charged image holding material, deposits a developing

5 material onto said electrostatic latent image, and forms a visible image;

(b) a belt arranged so as to run freely in contact with said image forming unit;

(c) a temperature detecting unit which detects a temperature of said belt; and

10 (d) a control unit which controls an image forming process on the basis of the temperature detected by said temperature detecting unit.

2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

15 (a) a fixing unit which fixes the visible image transferred from said image forming unit onto a recording medium which is conveyed by said belt, and

(b) wherein, said temperature detecting unit is arranged in a position where the surface temperature of the belt after the recording
20 medium was separated is detected.

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the detection temperature by said temperature detecting unit is higher than a threshold value, said control unit temporarily stops the image
25 forming process.

4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

either said detection temperature or said threshold value is corrected by a preset correction offset value.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein
5 said correction offset value is set in correspondence to the detection temperature.

6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
10 said control unit makes the control of the image forming process on the basis of the detection temperature by said temperature detecting unit after the elapse of a delay time from the start of running of the belt.

7. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
15 said control unit makes the control of the image forming process on the basis of the detection temperature by said temperature detecting unit after a running distance of the belt became longer than a threshold value from the start of running of the belt.

8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
20 said control unit limits a fluctuation of the detection temperature when said fluctuation is large.

9. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
25 said control unit weights the detection temperature.

10. The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
said threshold value is changed when a time to temporarily stop said image

forming process is equal to or longer than a set value.

11. The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
said control unit starts said image forming process when the detection
5 temperature is lower than another threshold value which has been set to be
lower than said threshold value after said image forming process was
temporarily stopped.

12. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
10 said detection temperature is corrected by a temperature correction value
which has been set in correspondence to a temperature of said image
holding material.

13. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
15 said detection temperature is corrected by a temperature correction value
after said image forming process was temporarily stopped.

14. The image forming apparatus according to claim 13, wherein
20 said temperature correction value is changed in association with turn-off of
a heater.

15. The image forming apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
said threshold value is changed in accordance with an amount of image data
to which the image process is being executed.

16. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
when data for simplex exists in image data, said control unit preferentially

forms an image with respect to an image forming job of said simplex data.

17. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said control unit reduces a conveying speed of a print medium when the
5 detection temperature by said temperature detecting unit is higher than a
threshold value.

18. The image forming apparatus according to claim 17, wherein
said control unit lowers a control temperature of a fixing unit when the
10 detection temperature by said temperature detecting unit is higher than a
threshold value.

19. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said control unit widens a conveyance interval of a print medium when the
15 detection temperature by said temperature detecting unit is higher than the
threshold value.

20. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said control unit inhibits duplex printing when the detection temperature
20 by said temperature detecting unit is higher than a threshold value.

21. An image forming apparatus comprising:
a temperature detecting unit which is provided in an apparatus
main body and detects a temperature in said apparatus; and
25 a control unit which controls an image forming process on the
basis of the temperature detected by said temperature detecting unit.

22. The image forming apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said temperature detecting unit is provided on a cover of the apparatus main body.

5 23. The image forming apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said temperature detecting unit is provided near an image forming unit closest to a fixing unit.